

STATEMENT OF SENATOR THAD COCHRAN
Subcommittee Markup of the Fiscal Year 2010
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill
July 28, 2009

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that we are marking up the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill today. That means we have only the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill to complete this week, then we will have only the Defense bill to consider when we come back in September.

The Labor-HHS-Education bill is of great importance because it supports biomedical research to help find effective treatments and cures for those afflicted by disease and illness; as well as education programs for children from kindergarten through college; and employment and training programs that are needed to help reduce the rising rate of unemployment.

I am very pleased that we were able to provide \$40 million for the Delta Health Initiative. This much needed funding will help improve the delivery of healthcare services to the Mississippi Delta.

I am also pleased that the subcommittee is funding, for the first time, \$14 million for the Model Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities. This program will give these students the help they need to pursue a college education.

The other new initiative that I would like to mention is the \$30 million for a program that will provide grants to education agencies in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas that sustained damage from hurricanes Katrina, Ike or Gustav. This funding will provide help to construct and renovate schools, replace equipment and educational materials, and pay teacher incentives.

We still have some unmet requests, but we know there are always going to be some shortfalls in worthy programs.

I would have liked to have seen a larger increase for the National Institutes of Health but the \$10.4 billion provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will continue the important the important work of the NIH for FY2010.

I appreciate the good work of Chairman Harkin and the majority and minority staff in putting together this \$163 billion bill. I also appreciate the Chairman's efforts in accommodating my priorities and those identified by our colleagues without exceeding the subcommittee's allocation.